

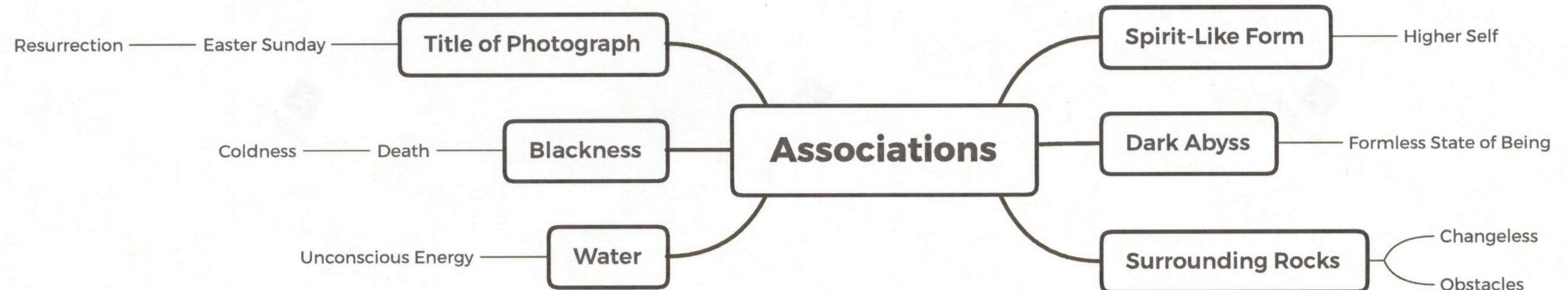
How To Mind Map Your Associations In Order To Help You Read A Photograph

It may be convenient for you to Mind Map your associations of a picture in order to help organize them. For beginners at Mindmapping, I would suggest that you use software that is not too complicated so that you will be able to learn how to use it without too much difficulty. The procedure is as follows:

1. Spend some time contemplating the photograph.
2. Jot down what all of the various parts of the photograph suggest to you.
3. If there is a Title, what does the title suggest to you?
4. With a good Dictionary of Symbols, such as A Dictionary of Symbols by Chevalier & Gheerbrant, look up the meaning of the symbols involved. Notice which symbolic meanings create an intuitive response within you when compared to the photograph. Set these symbolic meanings aside and discard the ones that do not create such a response.
5. Create a Mind Map of your associations and the meaning of the visual symbols that created these associations.
6. Create a sentence statement based upon your associations and their symbols.
7. Ask yourself if the Design Elements support or fail to support you feelings about the photograph. What does the lighting suggest? What does the space suggest? What do the tones suggest?

In the case of Minor White's photograph, Easter Sunday, and the Mind Map that I derived from my associations, such a sentence might go something like:

A Spirit-Like Form (unconscious energy) entered a formless state of Being (or death). The situation was changeless and fraught with insurmountable obstacles (symbolized by the rocks). The Title of the photograph, Easter Sunday, suggests the Resurrection—or the rising of Christ from the dead. The Title suggests the separation of the spirit from the body and the picture's associations do the same.



Easter Sunday Photograph

by

Minor White

